

CLAIMS

1. A composition for organ preservation, comprising an inulin type fructan as an active ingredient.

2. The composition for organ preservation according to claim 1, wherein the inulin type fructan is a mixture of two or more inulin type fructans selected from inulin type fructans having a degree of polymerization of 3 to 6.

3. The composition for organ preservation according to claim 1, wherein the inulin type fructan is 1-kestose.

4. The composition for organ preservation according to claim 1, wherein the inulin type fructan is nystose.

5. The composition for organ preservation according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which comprises:

(a) inulin type fructan 3.5 - 300 g/L;

(b)  $\text{Na}^+$  5 - 150 mM;

(c)  $\text{K}^+$  5 - 150 mM;

and

(d) at least one component selected

from the group consisting of  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,

$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ , organic acids, and organic

acid anions 10 - 150 mM.

6. The composition for organ preservation according to claim 5, which further comprises at least one of:

(e)  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  0 - 20 mM;

(f)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  0 - 5 mM;

(g)  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  and/or  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  0 - 150 mM;

and

(h) hydroxyethyl starch 0 - 100 g/L.

7. The composition for organ preservation according to

any one of claims 1 to 6, for suppressing or improving hypofunction of and damage to an organ which possibly occur during an organ transplantation process.

8. A method for preserving an organ, comprising the step of bringing an effective amount for organ preservation of the composition for organ preservation according to any one of claims 1 to 7 into contact with an organ.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said contact is carried out by perfusing the organ with the composition for organ preservation.

10. A method for suppressing or improving hypofunction of and damage to an organ which possibly occur during an organ transplantation process,

said method comprising the step of bringing an effective amount for suppression or improvement of the composition for organ preservation according to any one of claims 1 to 7 into contact with an organ.

11. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein said organ is selected from the group consisting of kidney, liver, heart, lung, and pancreas.

12. Use of an inulin type fructan for the manufacture of a composition for organ preservation.

13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the inulin type fructan is a mixture of two or more inulin type fructans selected from inulin type fructans having a degree of polymerization of 3 to 6.

14. Use according to claim 12, wherein the inulin type fructan is 1-kestose.

15. Use according to claim 12, wherein the inulin type fructan is nystose.

16. Use according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein said composition for organ preservation is a perfusate for the organ.

17. Use according to any one of claims 12 to 16, wherein said organ is selected from the group consisting of kidney, liver, heart, lung, and pancreas.